



Shincliffe CE Primary School

Statement about Home Learning during Temporary School Closure for COVID-19

“Every member of the school community is valued as a child of God, made in his image and likeness. All are welcome and are encouraged to use their gifts and talents to contribute to the happy and caring environment we strive to create.”

School Ethos Statement

Rationale

This is an unprecedented situation and, as such, we are working towards effective ways of working and supporting our children, families and staff during this time.

Current government guidance is that these are ‘*extreme and exceptional circumstances.*’ Therefore, curriculum responsibilities have been temporarily lifted from schools:

Emergency legislation will lift curriculum requirements for schools, giving flexibility to provide support, activities and education in the way they see fit... We recognise that many schools have already shared resources for children who are at home and are grateful for this...DfE is working with the BBC and other partners to provide advice and support directly to parents, including online resources they can access for their children at home.
DfE document: ‘Guidance for schools about temporary closures’

Effective from 20th April the BBC is providing daily educational lessons and materials for pupils. We advise parents to access these.

Our School’s Position

Whilst curriculum responsibilities have been lifted we are keen, as a school, to support our pupils with their continued learning and to offer guidance to parents/carers about appropriate ways of doing this. We also wish to support, as best we can, with the pressure many families will have during this period of time when their children are at home.

Guiding Principles

- Whilst we are happy to help, we believe it is not possible to recreate a full primary curriculum through online learning and/or sheets of paper-based resources—a level of practical exploration is key, due to the age of children. This is especially true of younger children where play is essential to learning.

- We appreciate the challenge many parents/carers will face when they are both working from home and looking after their children.
- We are committed to supporting with the continued education of our pupils however, we are not able to replicate exactly what would happen in school and don't expect parents/carers to do this either.
- We believe the emotional well-being of all our children and their families is paramount at this difficult and uncertain time. We would encourage parents/carers to be mindful of this and prioritise this alongside any educational activities they choose to do at home.
- Our response and what we can offer is in light of our particular school context, including circumstances of staff, e.g. self-isolation, illness etc and our commitment to support the children of critical workers. Clearly, these factors impact on what staff are able to do and when they can do this. Many staff are working onsite to support the children of key workers.
- There are currently some new duties schools are responding to, the extent of which the general public might not be aware of. This has some impact on staff roles and capacity and has been considered when writing this statement.

An overview moving forward

- All class teachers have uploaded an overview of suggested activities to their class DB Primary pages. These will be updated on a weekly basis. In addition, a weekly update on the coronavirus section of the school website gives direction to other supporting resources.
- After the Easter holidays weekly activities will continue to be available and in place by 12 noon on each Friday for the next week's learning. Some longer-term projects may be uploaded and staff will explain these on individual DB Primary class pages.
- As education professionals, teachers will share what they feel is an appropriate amount of activities/resources for the majority of children in their classes and for the situation we are currently in. ***We won't be able to respond to requests for more activities.***
- If a staff member is ill and unable to work, we cannot guarantee that work will be uploaded weekly. We will do our best to cover this but, due to the current situation, this might not be possible. In the event of this happening we would refer parents/carers back to the information provided by DB Primary and the school website.
- DB Primary will be updated with resources and activities linked to well-being on a weekly basis. We hope you find this section helpful.

The school email address: shincliffe@durhamlearning.net will continue to be monitored and can be used for any urgent queries. Again, this is dependent on staff availability and there may be a delay in our ability to respond. The School Office is closed so please do not telephone us.

We don't want work shared via online learning to become something stressful for our families and something they feel has to be completed. Instead we are offering this as a support to families and ask you to choose what is appropriate for you to complete with your children, depending on your individual circumstances.

This statement will be reviewed when appropriate, in light of the changing situation, government and LA guidance and the length of the school closure.